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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1958

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :-



D. MCGOWAN.

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J.H. ELLIS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.
Certificate of R.S.I. and
S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of
R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat
and other Foods.

W. HIGHAM.

District Public Health Inspector.
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)
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D. GRANTLEY SMITH.

District Public Health Inspector.
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District Public Health Inspector.
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Certificate of R.S.I. for
Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

J.S.S. STRONG.

Rodent Officer.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
1958.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department for 1958.

Measles was again the only notifiable infectious disease which produced a fairly high number of notifications during the year, the incidence of the other infections being low. Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified and it is hoped that as the immunisation programme against this disease proceeds, it will eventually be eliminated altogether.

Statistics for births, deaths, infant mortality etc. are all very satisfactory and show no cause for concern.

In the section on hospital facilities for the area, I have given some details of the proposals which the Regional Hospital Board have for increasing the number of beds for old people in the area and also for improving the maternity services.

The Annual Report is a document which reviews the changes which have taken place in the District during the year and necessarily, much of the information in it is in the form of statistics. To many people, statistics are a bore, but if read and interpreted correctly they can be most interesting, especially when compared with corresponding figures for previous years. I thought it might interest the members of the Council therefore, if I added a short appendix to this year's Report, giving extracts from the Annual Report of 1908.

The Report of Mr. Ellis gives a picture of the work done by the Public Health Inspectors and I would like to thank Mr. Ellis and the other Inspectors for their work during the year, and for the continuation of the good relationship which they have built up with the public.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated for their support, and the Officers and staff of other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

D. McGowan.

Medical Officer of Health.

October. 1959.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area of District	90,551 acres.
Population: 1931 Census.	22,076.
" 1951 "	26,535
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1958.	29,510
Rateable Value.	£358,131
Number of Inhabited Houses.	8,739

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1958.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	211	202	413
Illegitimate	7	9	16
	-----	-----	-----
	218	211	429
	-----	-----	-----

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 14.5

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.13) = 16.4

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	5	3	8
	-----	-----	-----

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 live and still births) = 18.3.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 437.

INFANT DEATHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	4	1	5
	-----	-----	-----

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) - total = 11.7

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) - legitimate = 11.7

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) - illegitimate = Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 9.3

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of total live births = 3.7%

MATERNAL DEATHS - Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) - Nil.

DEATHS:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
158	170	328

CRUDE DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 11.1.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.85) = 9.5.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 429 (218 boys and 211 girls), this being 41 births more than in 1957. Of these births 16 were illegitimate (7 boys and 9 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1958 was 14.5. and when the comparability factor (1.13) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 16.4 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 15.95 in 1957. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 16.4

BIRTH RATES.

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
England and Wales.	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4
Axbridge Rural District.	16.9	14.0	13.7	14.0	15.2	16.0	14.6	12.8	15.9	16.4

STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1958 was 8 (5 males and 3 females) of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 18.3 per 1,000 total births. The comparable still birth rate for England and Wales was 21.6 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 328 (158 males and 170 females). This is 4 less than in 1957 and gives a crude death rate of 11.1. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 9.5 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales as a whole.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were :-

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
First Quarter	92	80
Second Quarter	89	84
Third Quarter	60	73
Fourth Quarter	87	95

The following table shows the causes of death in 1958 :-

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>1958</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Other forms of tuberculosis.	1	-	1
Syphilitic diseases.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm.	12	14	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	1	2
Diabetes.	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	18	43	61
Coronary disease, angina pectoria.	30	27	57
Hypertension with heart disease.	6	3	9
Other heart diseases.	31	32	63
Other circulatory diseases.	4	8	12
Influenza.	1	1	2
Pneumonia.	5	3	8
Bronchitis.	6	5	11
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	4	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	6	-	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate.	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	11	9	20
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	2	5
All other accidents.	2	3	5
Suicide.	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
All Causes - <u>Total.</u>	158	170	328

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1958.
(The figures in brackets are those of 1957).

Ages at Death in Years :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	4 (6)	1 (1)	5 (7)
1 to 9	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
10 to 24	3 (4)	- (1)	3 (5)
25 to 44	4 (4)	3 (6)	7 (10)
45 to 64	41 (34)	22 (29)	63 (63)
65 to 69	20 (22)	21 (10)	41 (32)
<u>Total under 70 years.</u>	<u>== ---- 72 (71)</u>	<u>---- -- 47 (48)</u>	<u>----- ---- 119 (119)</u>
70 to 74	24 (32)	15 (27)	39 (59)
75 to 79	28 (23)	26 (37)	54 (60)
80 to 84	19 (21)	43 (26)	62 (47)
85 to 89	9 (7)	29 (26)	38 (33)
90 to 94	6 (5)	8 (8)	14 (13)
95 to 99	- (-)	2 (1)	2 (1)
<u>Total over 70 years.</u>	<u>---- ---- 86 (88)</u>	<u>---- ---- 123 (125)</u>	<u>---- ---- 209 (213)</u>
	<u>158 (159)</u>	<u>170 (173)</u>	<u>328 (332)</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1958.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks.	Total under 1 month	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital malformations.	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	1	3	-	4	1	-	-	-	5

Five children (4 boys and 1 girl) under the age of one year died in 1958. This is two less than in 1957 and gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 11.7 per 1,000 live births as compared with 22.5 for England and Wales as a whole. Four of the five deaths were due to prematurity or congenital malformations.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Water Undertaking was transferred to the Bristol Waterworks Company on 1st April 1958. The date marks the end of an era during which the District Council, as the Authority responsible, built up over the years a water supply which was as good as that of any Rural District in the Country. Undoubtedly the Bristol Waterworks Company will continue to improve the services so ably started by the District Council.

The new supply main at Brean and Berrow came into operation during the year, and for the first time for a number of years, there was no shortage of water during the summer season in this area.

Every parish has a piped water supply and 8,566 houses representing a population of 29,885 are supplied from the public mains. Eight houses representing 25 people obtain water from standpipes. 165 houses rely on other sources for water supply. During the year a piped supply was given to 15 houses in place of a well supply.

Samples of water, both treated and untreated, are collected at regular intervals for bacteriological examination. The results of such sampling are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following parishes have main drainage and efficient sewage disposal systems - Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar, Winscombe, Locking and part of Shipham.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year :-

(a) Completed

	<u>Cost</u>
Sandford Batch - Extension of Winscombe Sewerage Scheme.	£3,257

(b) In Progress

Cheddar - New Road, Extension of Sewer 711 yards.	£6,090
Kewstoke - Part village sewerage and sewage disposal.	£3,000

(c) Future Proposals include :-

	<u>Approximate Cost.</u>
Congresbury Scheme, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.	£53,000
Wrington - New Works.	£12,935
Cheddar - New Pumping Station.	£ 5,629
Wedmore Sewerage Scheme.	Not yet ascertained.

In previous Annual Reports, I have commented on the needs of the District for further sewage disposal systems in addition to the proposals for the future shown above. I want only to repeat here that, having provided the District with adequate wholesome water supplies, the Council's main task now in the public health field, is to provide efficient sewage disposal systems in all the more populated parts of the District.

HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year was 34, compared with 112 in 1957. 145 houses were completed by private enterprise compared with 124 in 1957. The number of families re-housed during the year was 95 and the number of houses still requisitioned are 2. The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1958 was 290. There was only one hutment occupied by a family at the end of 1958, but this family was rehoused in 1959.

Grants approved under the Housing Act, 1949 to improve sub-standard houses increased during the year and some good work is being done in preventing such houses from falling into a state of complete disrepair. Details of the scheme are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following table summarises the progress of housing during the year :-

	<u>Houses erected in 1958</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year 1958</u>		<u>Conversion to flats and dwellings</u>	
	<u>Perm</u>	<u>Temp</u>	<u>Perm</u>		<u>Perm</u>	<u>Temp</u>
Local Authority	34	-	10		-	-
Private Enterprise	145	-	111		1	-
	<u>179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
				<u>December 1958</u>		<u>December 1957</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council.				1540		1504
Number of houses requisitioned by the Council.				2		2
Number of hutments administered by the Council.				1		1
Number of applicants for Council houses.				290		385
Number of families re-housed during the year.				95		165

The number of post-war houses erected by the Local Authority up to the end of 1958 is 1017 plus 4 flats. The programme for 1959 provides for the erection of 20 houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The epidemic of measles which started in late 1957 continued on into 1958, and another 203 cases were notified. Apart from measles, no other infectious diseases reached epidemic proportions. Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	203
Scarlet Fever	22
Diphtheria	-
Enteric and Paratyphoid Fever	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1
Meningococcal Infection	-
Dysentery	-
Whooping Cough	69
Acute Primary Pneumonia)	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia)	26
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eighteen new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were two deaths due to this cause during the year. The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
64	64	4	7	68	71

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

B.C.G. vaccination is a method of raising the immunisation of people to tuberculosis and in 1956 it was decided to offer vaccination to all thirteen year old children in the County. During 1958, the parents of 128 children of this age group in this area accepted the offer. After skin testing (Heaf Test), 101 of the 128 children, being "negative" reactors, were given the vaccine. The remaining 27 "positive" reactors were not vaccinated.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1958, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 272 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 43 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 216 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION.

Larger supplies of poliomyelitis vaccine were available in 1958, and during the year, 1794 children under the age of 15 years in the District received the primary course of two injections. In addition, the vaccine was also given to 66 people in other priority groups.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The following table shows the number of people vaccinated or revaccinated by private general practitioners.

<u>Under</u> <u>1 Year.</u>		<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs. or</u> <u>Over.</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
150	-	8	2	10	2	9	11	8	19	185	34

P. = Primary Vaccination.
R. = Revaccination.

HOSPITALS, CLINICS ETC.

Hospital facilities for general medical and surgical cases are available for patients in the Rural District at Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea. Since 1949 cases of infectious diseases have been admitted mainly to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, but a few from the southern part of the District are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital. Shute Shelve Hospital, which was originally the Infectious Diseases Hospital, was used for some time for tuberculosis, but now takes post-operative cases from Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. Functioning as such, it plays a very valuable role in increasing the number of patients being treated in such hospitals as the Weston-super-Mare General Hospital, and thus helps to reduce the hospital waiting list.

Ilex Lodge Hospital in Axbridge and Drove Road Hospital in Weston-super-Mare provide beds for the sick old person who cannot be nursed at home, and in last year's Report I commented on the need for more hospital beds for this type of patient in the District. It is pleasing to hear that the Regional Hospital Board intend to provide a net increase of about fifty more beds for geriatric cases at the Royal Hospital, in Weston-super-Mare.

Maternity cases who require admission to hospital either on medical or social grounds are admitted to various maternity hospitals in Bristol, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater and Wells. The Regional Hospital Board have also stated that a new block will be built at the Royal Hospital which will provide for 45 - 50 obstetric and general practitioner maternity beds. When this is completed Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital (20 beds) will be closed down.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Cheddar, Winscombe, Banwell, Hutton, Kewstoke, Wrington and Congresbury.

A P P E N D I X

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Extracts from Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1908.

Area: 93,252 acres.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A.V. Leche.

Population: 24,204 (estimated to mid 1908) Inhabited Houses: 5,359

Average number of persons per house - 6.

Vital Statistics, 1908.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living	20.3.
Death Rate " " "	13.3.
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	81.3.

Water Supply.

Generally from wells and streams. The South ^Marsh supply, and that of Cheddar, Axbridge and Highbridge is satisfactory in quality and quantity. Operations are in progress for providing the necessary increase in the Winscombe supply. A good supply for the North Marsh is imperative. Samples taken during house to house inspection at Wick-St-Lawrence, Puxton and Hewdsh were all found to be polluted.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Privies and cesspools in general use. The sewerage at Wrington is satisfactory, and good sewers have been laid in Cheddar and Blagdon. The very necessary drainage of Uphill has been provided for, a petition to connect with the Weston-super-Mare sewer having been granted.

Prevalence of Diseases: Notification - Cases notified - 84.

Diphtheria - 41; Erysipelas - 19; Scarlet Fever - 21;
Enteric - 3.

Outbreaks of diphtheria occurred at Uphill and Axbridge. Loxton, Banwell, Worle, Brean and Bleadon schools were closed for measles. Compton Bishop for whooping cough, Badgworth for chicken-pox, and the Winscombe schools for Scarlet Fever. Measles caused 1 death; Whooping Cough 2; Diarrhoea and Dysentery 4; Phthisis (lung tuberculosis) 38; Cancer 16; Bronchitis 47; Heart disease 42.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1958

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1958.

HOUSING

Improvement grants continue to be of great assistance in encouraging the re-conditioning of sub-standard dwellings. Whatever the position may be in the country as a whole, there is no doubt that in this District improvement grants have been a valuable means of raising the standard of older houses.

Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st Dec. 1957.	229 applications (260 dwellings)	219 applications (248 dwellings)	10 applications (12 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1958.	42 applications (52 dwellings)	41 applications (51 dwellings)	1 application (1 dwelling)
Position at 31st December, 1958.	271 applications (312 dwellings)	260 applications (299 dwellings)	11 applications (13 dwellings)

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 40 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 55 in 1957. 5 houses were demolished during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1958, is as follows :-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	768
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	515
Number of properties requiring major repair or structural alteration (Category 3)	2,278
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost. (Category 5)	349

Statutory Action under the Provisions of
The Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 was instituted in respect of 21 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows :-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.57.	11
--	----

During 1958.

Demolition Orders made.	3
------------------------------	---

Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.	9
---	---

Undertakings accepted to make premises fit.	6
---	---

Cases under consideration at 31.12.58.	14
--	----

OVERCROWDING.

On the 31st December, 1958 there was 1 case of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The total number of moveable dwellings permitted on licensed sites exceeds last years figure by 58. Individual moveable dwellings licensed show an increase of 13.

The number of caravans used for living purposes rose from 182, accommodating 430 persons, to 213 accommodating 493. Residential caravans occupied by families with children totalled 68 compared with 63 in 1957.

The two major trends during the year were the still increasing demand for caravan sites at Brean and Berrow and the continued steady growth in the number of residential caravans in the area. This latter trend continues in spite of the improved housing position in the District. It is influenced largely by the number of retired people who come into the District to live in caravans and by the housing position in nearby urban areas.

Number of camping sites licensed during the year.	55
--	----

Total number of moveable dwellings permitted on these sites.	1,827
---	-------

Total number of individual moveable dwellings licensed.	68
--	----

FOOD PREMISES.

The co-operation of food traders normally ensures that compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 can be secured without the need for formal action by the District Council.

The District Council did, however, find it necessary during the year to institute proceedings against the occupier of a butcher's shop, who failed to provide a satisfactory supply of water and adequate hand washing facilities in the shop. A conviction was obtained and the occupier was fined £5 on each of the two counts.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below :-

Number of Food Premises in Area (excluding registered dairy premises)

A. Food Manufacturing Premises.

Edible Fat Refineries	2
Cheese Straw Factory	1
Cheese Factories	2
Bakers	12
Soft Drinks Factory	1

B. Retail Shops

Grocers	124
Confectioners	41
Butchers	21
Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	5
Greengrocers	11
Dairies	2

C. Catering Premises (including licensed premises) 144

D. Premises registered under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. (excluding premises used for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

Sausage making	14
Fish frying	3

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Investigations were made into the causes of all unsatisfactory milk samples. Collaboration with the County Milk Officer, when unsatisfactory samples indicated faulty methods at the place of production, has been maintained.

Number of registered dairies	6
Number of milk distributors registered (premises in this District)	72
Number of milk distributors registered (premises outside the District)	16

Milk Samples

Tuberculin Tested	96 Satisfactory	30 Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	6 Satisfactory	1 Unsatisfactory
Sterilised	2 Satisfactory	2 Unsatisfactory

ICE CREAM.

All ice-cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 to 1952 in preparation rooms which have been especially constructed or adapted for the purpose. There are again no matters which call for special comment.

The overall results of the samples taken are regarded as satisfactory.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream (Complete cold mix)	4
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream.	174

Summary of results of ice-cream samples taken.

	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
Ice cream manufactured within the District.	11	-	-	-	11
Ice cream manufactured outside the District.	51	11	3	1	66
	62	11	3	1	77

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are now chlorinated, the Burrington supply having been chlorinated since mid-year.

	<u>Probable No. of Coliform</u> <u>Bacilli MacConkey 2 days</u> <u>37° C.</u>					
	<u>0 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>	<u>1 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>	<u>2 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>	<u>3 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>	<u>5 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>	<u>8 per</u> <u>100 ml.</u>
Cheddar & Axbridge	12 samples			1 sample		
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "					
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	12 "					
Winscombe	12 "				1 sample	
North Mendip	11 "		1 sample			
Burrington (Not chlorinated)	3 "	3 samples				
Burrington (Chlorinated)	5 "		1 sample			
Twin Brook Adit.	12 "					
Blagdon	12 "		1 sample			1 sample
Kewstoke	11 "	2 samples				
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "					
	<u>114</u> "	<u>5</u> "	<u>3</u> "	<u>1</u> "	<u>1</u> "	<u>1</u> "

A sample of water from each of the above supplies was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the Analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

Samples were also taken of the untreated water from each of the sources of supply within the District.

Seventy-seven samples of well water were taken for bacteriological examination from seventy-one private premises. The samples of water from thirty-four of these premises proved to be satisfactory and thirty-seven to be unsatisfactory. A water supply from the public main was substituted for a well supply in fifteen cases.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The three slaughterhouses licensed in the District following the decontrol of slaughtering continued in operation throughout the year.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

The most significant feature is the decline in the amount of tuberculosis found in bovines and swine.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	222	62	203	1,049	1,007	-
Number inspected	222	62	203	1,049	1,007	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	66	51	1	58	57	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.7	82.2	0.49	5.6	5.6	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	8	-	-	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	2.2	12.9	-	-	0.59	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for :-						
(a) Tuberculosis	129	306	-	-	78	-
(b) Cysticercosis	30	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	287	442½	3	120½	108¼	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	446	748½	3	120½	186¼	-

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

Difficulty was experienced during the year in keeping pace with the demand for cesspool emptying. Overtime working of the tanker was necessary to reduce arrears of work.

Total number of cesspools and settlement tanks cleansed during the year.

677

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There has again been a heavy increase, of approximately 850 tons, in the amount of refuse collected during 1958. The proposed weekly collection could now only be arranged if additional transport facilities were provided.

The ~~sales~~ of salvaged materials remained steady throughout the year.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year.

6,696 tons

Total amount of salvaged material disposed of during the year.

	<u>T.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qr.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
(a) Paper and Cardboard	174	9	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	928.	1.	0.
(b) Rags	3	12	2	108.	15.	0.
(c) Non-ferrous metals	1	4	2	91.	17.	6.
(d) Sundries		16	3	5.	13.	9.

Total amount realised by the sale of material salvaged.

1134. 7. 3.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st March, 1959.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1959.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses.)	All other (inc. business premises.)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3.	Agric-ultural	
	1.	2.	3.			
I.	No. of properties in Local Authority's District.	20	8739	544	9,303	950
II.	No. of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a)	Notification	-	86	6	92	10
(b)	Survey under the Act.	20	898	104	1022	300
(c)	Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	29	20	49	10
III.	Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections.	36	1083	200	1319	360
IV.	No. of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by :-					
(a)	Rats (Major)	1	2	2	5	20
	(Minor)	5	479	21	505	28
(b)	Mice (Major)	5	10	2	17	20
	(Minor)	2	40	5	47	150
V.	No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV treated by the L.A.	12	490	20	522	24
VI.	Total treatments carried out inc. re-treatments.	16	561	29	606	29
VII.	No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act :					
(a)	treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b)	structural work (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
VIII.	No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
IX.	Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
X.	No. of "Block" control schemes carried out.	10				

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year :-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions of health :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	117	96	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding Outworkers' premises).	21	7	-
	141	106	3

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)		
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
	3	3

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS.

Number of premises where filling materials are used - Nil
Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured - One

The premises where rag flock is manufactured were duly licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Rag Flock & Other Filling Material Act, 1951.

During the year ending 31st December, 1958 the following samples were taken and submitted for analysis. All were found to comply with the statutory requirements of the Rag Flock & Other Filling Material Regulations, 1951.

Coir Fibre	-	4
Rag Flock	-	4

PETROLEUM

All petroleum storage installations are inspected annually before applications for renewal of licences are considered by the Public Health Committee.
Number of premises licensed for the storage of petrol - 131.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY, OR UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,341
Total number of houses and premises inspected.	2,069

Food premises and catering establishments(Food & Drugs Act)	525
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.	568
Factories.	118
Shops (Shops Act).	300
Ice Cream Premises.	68
Dairies.	118
Drainage Systems.	295
Petrol Installations.	224

Number of Samples taken:

Milk.	143
Ice Cream.	81
Water	223
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials.	8

Tests of Swimming Bath Water.	8
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases.	40
Premises, disinfected or disinfected.	19
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective.	20

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,
Your obdient Servant,

J.H. ELLIS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

